

a purpose here on earth. Her purpose was so special, and she fulfilled her purpose beautifully in 40 short years. Melissa suffered physically more than most of us in this church will ever suffer. But, she always had a smile on her face and hug in her hands.

I want to talk a little about Melissa's younger years, but focus mainly on the last fifteen years of her life, as I think that is when Melissa truly shined here on her earthly journey. When we were growing up, Melissa was always the "good" child. I was the one that was always getting into trouble and she would never tell on me to mom and dad. Melissa and I enjoyed many fun times together playing in lakeview terrace with friends who are some of her pall bearers today. I remember the fun times of swimming in our pool, playing kickball, always being outside and eating ice cream from Mr. Bunton's ice cream truck. She ate so much ice cream that she gained the name "Popsicle". She enjoyed ice cream for as long as I can remember. She was an avid basketball and softball player in high school and always enjoyed being around people. She also attended Georgia Southern for three years and I remember visiting her there while in high school. She always made me feel older than I was, which I enjoyed at the time. I thought it was cool to have an older sister who was in college. She was a role model for me in that sense. She was always good at math and enjoyed working in restaurants because she enjoyed "taking care of people."

Melissa also had a strong love for her daughter Bethany. When Melissa could no longer drive, she would push Bethany all over town in a stroller to spend as much quality time with her as she could. I will always remember Melissa and Bethany playing silly games together and Melissa just having a ball. She was a great mother.

As most of you know, Melissa fought Huntington's disease for the past 15 years or so. This is a horrible disease that my family has dealt with for many years. I firmly believe that God allowed her, instead of me, to have Huntington's disease because she was a much stronger person than me when it comes to handling pain and she had a better ability to show her love to others through this earthly pain. To those of you who have known Melissa, you have known a special person and have received a gift from God by knowing her. There is no doubt in my mind God used Melissa's suffering to show us His love and to further His kingdom. The more Melissa suffered and the closer she got to heaven the more I could see the Cross in her and the more she shared the Christian principles of Unconditional Love and Prayer.

Just this week, I e-mailed my office staff about Melissa's passing and I received an e-mail back from one staffer that read: "Sorry to hear this Eric. I will always remember Melissa reaching out to give me a hug as soon as I introduced myself—it was obvious she had a wonderful spirit—that has not changed!" It's interesting that I received this e-mail after I had already begun writing this eulogy from the premise that was spelled out in this e-mail. I'm sure everyone here has received that wonderful unconditional hug from Melissa. She is now hugging everyone she sees in heaven.

Melissa was a strong woman who promoted Love and Prayer throughout her earthly struggle with Huntington's and used her body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 states: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?" She couldn't speak as we do, but she furthered the Kingdom of God more than I could ever do.

When preparing for this eulogy, I found a verse that is very appropriate and fitting to

Melissa. 1 John 3:18: "Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." This is a perfect description of Melissa. As Huntington's began to overtake her body, she was not able to communicate with her tongue, so she communicated with her hands. To those of you who know her, you know, the first thing that she would do when you saw her was to raise her hands and hug you. It didn't matter if she was at home in her chair, in the hospital or out on the town, she would always want a hug from whomever she saw. She would even do this if I came in the house and she was half asleep. The more Melissa suffered, the stronger God showed us Jesus in her actions. God was using her body as a temple of the Holy Spirit to show us how Jesus wants us to love.

Melissa didn't ask if someone was poor, rich, old, homeless, handicapped, young, black, brown, or white, she wanted to hug them and love them. If only we could be this loving in our daily lives. Can you imagine walking down the street and hugging everyone you see and showering them with love? Wouldn't that make for a wonderful, beautiful world? This was Melissa. This is what I remember about Melissa more than anything. She could not speak with her mouth, but she spoke way more with her actions than she could have ever done with her mouth. She was showing the love of Jesus to everyone she met regardless of infirmity, class status, race, or wealth. What a model for us to live by.

Secondly, Melissa reminded us to pray. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 states that we should "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." God has placed people like Melissa in our midst to further His kingdom. Think about it for a minute, if we didn't have people like Melissa, we wouldn't lean on God and pray so much. God wants us to pray continually, not just occasionally, but continually. Melissa gave us reason to pray continually and draw us closer to Christ. I want you to remember this. When you see someone who is suffering from earthly challenges, think of Melissa and pray. What a great legacy to leave.

Melissa taught us to love, unconditionally and to pray continually. There is no better gift. Through her suffering, she allowed Jesus to shine upon us and show us His way of love and prayer. She allowed Christ to use her suffering to expand His kingdom. In closing, I say to Melissa, the words of Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. You are at rest now. You have served your God and are now at rest." Thank you for letting Jesus use your illness to shine on everyone you met. You are truly an angel sent from God and inspiration to all of us.

#### A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE WARREN SLOCUM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life's work of the Honorable Warren Slocum, San Mateo County's Chief Elections Officer and County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, who is retiring after more than two decades of extraordinary service to the County.

There's an old expression that "the people who vote count, as well as the people who count the votes." Warren Slocum counted the

votes. He counted them for 23 years, always keenly aware of the importance of both the voters and the counters to the functioning of our government. Warren Slocum has been, quite simply, the man behind the machinery of our great democracy.

Long before becoming that man, Warren Slocum was a soldier and a student. He enlisted in the Army and served in Vietnam, returning to attend San Diego State University on the G.I. Bill, and graduating with Honors in History in 1972. He later pursued graduate studies at San Diego State and Stanford University and worked in the private sector before embarking on his storied public service career.

Rising from Elections Supervisor to Assistant County Clerk and Recorder, Warren Slocum was elected County Clerk-Recorder in 1986, and Chief Elections Officer and County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor in 1993. Warren Slocum's office gave him the longest official title in the County and some of the greatest responsibilities. He managed up to 2,500 staff and an annual budget of \$24 million, overseeing the conduct of all elections and voter registration, the valuation of property, and the recording of official documents, including birth, death, and marriage certificates.

Warren Slocum pledged and delivered the highest quality service, guaranteeing integrity and access in the voting process, promoting civic literacy and participation, and providing accurate assessments and first-rate record keeping. Under his leadership, overall office expenditures were reduced by 20%, making millions of dollars available for other programs. Warren Slocum's colleagues have recognized his tireless efforts by selecting him to head countless professional associations. The San Mateo County Economic Development Association has hailed his work as "an example of responsiveness, efficiency and action by an elected official and government office which should be the model for all public agencies."

Throughout his service, Warren Slocum never stopped seeking better solutions. A self-proclaimed "public sector entrepreneur," Warren Slocum brought the spirit of Silicon Valley to his many endeavors, making the San Mateo County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's office the most committed to innovation in the Nation. In 1992, and with no supplemental appropriations, he converted the old lever voting machines to a cutting-edge optical scan system, and followed up in subsequent years with an extraordinary display of innovation and modernization. He co-founded the Smart Voter Project, which provides sample ballots and voter information online, and he was the first in California to implement electronic recording. He created the "Wedding Cam" system, allowing friends and relatives to view civil ceremonies on the Web. His blog was the very first on the subject of election reform and verified voting, and his expertise on these matters led him to become a leading voice on high-tech voting in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, MSNBC, and NPR.

Warren Slocum's well-deserved retirement will give him more time with his wife Maria Diaz and their two sons, and for his many hobbies, which include hiking, kayaking, golfing, reading, and playing the piano. Knowing Warren Slocum, however, he won't stop moving. He once swam the "Escape from Alcatraz" race, finishing 286 out of nearly 1,000 swimmers. No doubt, even in retirement, there are more impressive efforts in his future.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary work of Warren Slocum and wish him a retirement filled to the brim with good health and many new adventures. Warren says he was raised to believe that one person can make a difference, and he has been working all his life to do just that. The creativity and accountability he has brought to the County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's office, and the deep integrity and abiding respect for our system of government, have made Warren Slocum a model County official, and a man we could count on to count right. I count myself blessed to know this dedicated public servant who has done so much to make our democracy flourish, and has strengthened our community and our country in countless ways.

#### CONGRATULATING TURKEY ON ITS REPUBLIC DAY

#### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Turkey's Republic Day, which was celebrated on October 29, 2010. On this day, America's ally Turkey commemorated its 87th year as a Republic. Turkey, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, officially became a Republic in 1923—paving the way for the creation of a modern nation-state.

Turkey has been and continues to be an important ally to the United States. It serves an important role in the international community, and as a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, it has supported the United States on many critical issues.

I congratulate Turkey and its citizens on this important day.

#### HONORING MAYOR CLAUDE A. "BUD" LEWIS

#### HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Mayor of Carlsbad, Claude A. "Bud" Lewis. Mr. Lewis has dedicated over 36 years of his life to public service in the Carlsbad community. After serving our great country during the Korean War as a United States Marine, he spent 34 years as an award-winning high school teacher at Carlsbad High School. After witnessing the apathy of his students and community to their local government, he decided to set an example and run for public office. In 1970, Mr. Lewis began his public service as a city council member serving for 16 years before becoming the Mayor of Carlsbad, a position he has held for 24 years. Mr. Lewis' dedication to ingenuity and focus on the future is honored by his numerous awards and accomplishments.

Mayor Lewis' ability to create and implement long-term goals has allowed for Carlsbad's

economy to thrive and attract new high-tech and environmentally conscientious industries. In this vein, he was the first in his region to implement an award-winning and forward-thinking "Growth Management Plan," which focuses on sustainability and growth far into the future. Mayor Lewis' determination to think of tomorrow has also enabled Carlsbad to be prepared for extreme drought in California. Moreover, he was the first Carlsbad Chairman of the San Diego County Water Board and merged the Carlsbad Municipal Water District with the City of Carlsbad to provide a more efficient use of the city's precious water resources. In doing so, Mayor Lewis has taken steps to protect the local ecosystem, especially the city's lagoons, so that it will thrive for future generations.

Mayor Lewis' forward thinking transformed his community into the "Jewel of North County" and his changes and ideas will continue to bring Carlsbad benefits in the future as it has today. His dedication to public service is an inspiration to all citizens and is both commendable and honorable. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to call Bud a friend and I wish him well during his much deserved retirement. North County San Diego will miss him.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Christian Faith Baptist Church on this, their twentieth anniversary and for their outstanding contributions to the welfare of residents of Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Christian Faith Baptist Church and its congregation have distinguished themselves through many years of service to their community and to their county through their extended ministry.

Created in February 1990 by a small band of believers guided by their faith, the Christian Faith Baptist Church dedicated itself to the mission of being a beacon of faith to the community. Immediately, the church set out to extend hospitality and Christian love to all who came through their doors by establishing a Christian Education Ministry within a month of creation. From their modest beginnings at the Shaw University Divinity School Campus, the church has grown to presently include some 30 ministries.

In 1999, Christian Faith Baptist Church had the honor of hosting the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Ministry Convention, the oldest and largest African-American mission convention. It was attended by over 6,000 people, including representatives from across the United States and the world.

Christian Faith Baptist Church and its congregation have provided spiritual guidance and service throughout the community; this dedication and desire to serve others was evident from the very beginning. The service to the community is evident in the ministries that the church has built and in work such as the Saturday lunches that the Christian Faith Baptist

Church has held for the elderly and the needy for the past twenty years.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of the Christian Faith Baptist Church.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN WOODBRIDGE, VA

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 15, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 160th Anniversary of Bethel United Methodist Church in Woodbridge, Virginia.

In 1850, the community came together to erect Bethel United Methodist Church on property donated by Burr and Emsey Glasscock. Mr. Burr was one of the members of the first Board of County Supervisors of Prince William County, and he later served as a lay preacher at Bethel. Neighbors donated materials and labor to complete the structure that still stands today. The building has served as a Civil War hospital, community meeting place and sanctuary for Bethel United Methodist Church.

The church family has grown and contracted over the years, but it has always maintained its mission of fellowship, service and outreach. Bethel members support or participate in a number of community organizations: Action in Community Through Service, Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy Scout Troop 1363, Cloverdale School, Cooperative Council of Ministries, Cub Scout Pack 1936, Greater Prince William Mentoring Ministry, Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program, Marriage Encounter, Project Mend-a-House, Sexual Assault Victims Advocacy Service, Turning Points and Volunteer Emergency Foster Care. This is a congregation that cares deeply about its surrounding community and takes an active role in strengthening its civic bonds.

Revered Frederick L. Parish currently serves as the Senior Pastor at Bethel United Methodist Church. He has been with the Bethel family since 1974 and is a pillar of the Prince William faith community. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Didlake Foundation, an organization that helps individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities enrich their lives with education and employment opportunities. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Project Mend-a-House, where he helps the non-profit provide home rehabilitation or home access modifications to seniors and people with disabilities. Reverend Parish serves as a volunteer Chaplain at Potomac Hospital, is a member of the eastern Prince William Ministerial Association, and plays an active and valued role in a number of other community organizations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 160th Anniversary of Bethel United Methodist Church. Bethel has a vibrant congregation dedicated to continuing the church's long tradition of service and worship. I wish Reverend Parish and his congregation the best as they celebrate their heritage and plan for a successful future.